

GEORGE A. ROMERO  
ALEX MALEEV

SOUTH

EMPIRE  
OF THE  
DEAD

PARENTAL  
ADVISORY!  
NOT FOR KIDS!

004

MARVEL

EMPIRE  
OF THE  
DEAD 4  
TOM ELLIS





PAUL  
BARNUM

# Welcome to **New York**



**MAYOR  
CHANDRAKE**



PENNY  
JONES



XAVIER



BILL  
CHANDRAKE

FIVE YEARS AFTER THE DEAD FIRST WALKED, NEW YORK CITY HAS BECOME A FORTRESS OF ISOLATION AGAINST THE UNDEAD PLAGUE. THE CITY IS SAFEGUARDED BY THE MILITARISTIC FORCES OF MAYOR CHANDRAKE, WHO RULES THE CITY WITH HIS SECRET CABAL OF VAMPIRES! CHANDRAKE KEEPS THE MASSES ENTERTAINED USING ZOMBIES AS GLADIATORS, BUT PENNY JONES, A MEDICAL SCIENTIST, AND A ZOMBIE WRANGLER NAMED PAUL BARNUM ARE WORKING TO TAME THE ZOMBIE GLADIATOR XAVIER, WHO EXHIBITS INTELLIGENCE...THAT IS, UNTIL XAVIER USES HER INTELLIGENCE TO ESCAPE! ELSEWHERE, ANOTHER SMARTER-THAN-AVERAGE ZOMBIE, LITTLE JOHN, LEADS A GROUP OF ZOMBIES UPTOWN THROUGH THE UNGUARDED SUBWAYS, TOWARDS THE CENTER OF THE CITY'S LIVING HUMANS...

# GEORGE ROMERO

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GUESS  
YOU AIN'T  
GETTIN' MY  
SANDWICH.





## UNDER THE ARENA.



→YAWN!  
GOTTA...STAY AWAKE.  
GOTTA FIND...→YAWN! THE  
THING THAT MAKES THE  
FLESH-EATERS DIFFERENT...  
FROM US.

THEY'RE NOT  
THAT DIFFERENT.  
FROM...SOME  
OF US.

MAYOR! Y-YOU  
SCARED ME. I DIDN'T  
THINK YOU MADE...  
HOUSE CALLS.

I NORMALLY  
DON'T, MS. JONES.  
PARTICULARLY NOT AT  
THREE IN THE MORNING.  
BUT YOU'RE A NIGHT  
OWL, LIKE ME.

I CALLED  
YOUR HOSPITAL.  
THEY TOLD ME  
YOU WERE HERE.  
I THOUGHT I'D  
COME AND  
SEE...

BUT THIS? THIS IS  
IMPOSSIBLE. HOW CAN  
YOU WORK IN THESE  
CONDITIONS?

I CAN'T ALLOW  
IT. I'M GOING TO  
SET UP A WHOLE NEW  
LABORATORY FOR  
YOU.

I'M GRATEFUL  
TO BE HERE. PAUL  
MADE ROOM FOR ME  
AND IT'S REALLY  
USEFUL TO BE CLOSE  
TO MY...PATIENTS.

WHY ARE  
YOU TAKING SUCH  
AN INTEREST?

I'M THE MAYOR OF  
THIS CITY. THE FLESH-  
EATERS POSE A THREAT  
TO ALL OF US...ALL OF  
US WHO ARE STILL  
ALIVE.

IF YOU  
CAN FIND A  
WAY TO TAME  
THEM...

I DON'T  
THINK I CAN...  
ANY MORE THAN  
I COULD TAME  
A LION.

THEY'RE  
NATURALLY  
AGGRESSIVE. WHAT  
I'M TRYING TO DO  
IS RE-CHANNEL  
THAT AGGRESSION.

THINK OF ME AS A LION.  
WHAT WOULD YOU DO  
WITH ME...

IF I WERE  
TO COME AFTER  
YOU?

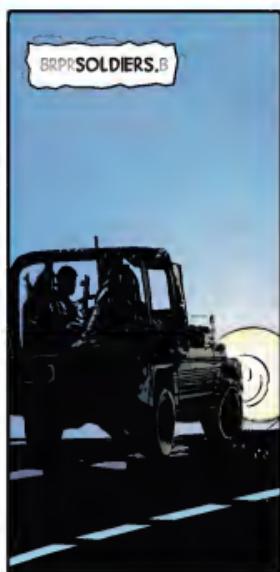
I WOULD  
POLITELY ASK  
YOU...TO GO  
AWAY.

I WOULDN'T  
GO EASILY.  
I'M ALWAYS  
SEARCHING  
FOR...

...ANOTHER  
ADDITION...TO  
MY PRIDE.



FDR DRIVE.



ONLY  
NEW JERSEY TURNPIKE.

ONLY

ONLY

CASH





BARNUM'S APARTMENT.

YOU DIDN'T...  
DO ANYTHING  
WITH HIM, DID  
YOU? I MEAN...  
PHYSICALLY.

NO.  
BUT I  
WANTED  
TO.

I DON'T  
KNOW WHAT  
COMES OVER ME. WHATEVER HE WANTS  
ME TO THINK, FEEL  
WHATEVER HE WANTS  
ME TO FEEL...

...IT'S LIKE HE  
MAKES ME THINK...

YOU HAVE TO RESIST. I  
KNOW HOW HARD IT CAN  
BE. BELIEVE ME, I KNOW.  
BUT YOU HAVE TO...  
HAVE TO...RESIST.

REMEMBER  
YOU SAID...WHEN  
CHANDRAK LIKES A  
PERSON, SOMETIMES THERE  
CAN BE "UNEXPECTED  
COMPLICATIONS"?

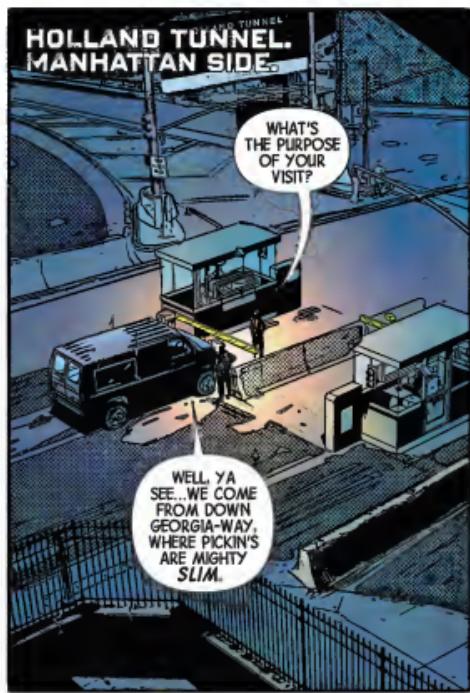
WHAT DID  
YOU MEAN BY  
THAT?

AREN'T  
WE ALL?

BUT ME...  
I'M WILLING  
TO WAIT.

YOU  
KNOW WHAT  
MEN ARE  
LIKE. CERTAIN  
KINDS OF MEN.

ARE YOU  
THAT KIND OF  
MAN?











COPS  
ALL OVER THE  
PLACE.

HOLLAND TUNNEL,  
MANHATTAN SIDE.



TOOK 'EM  
TWENTY-THREE MINUTES  
TO SHOW UP. SO, ON THE  
DAY, WE'LL HAVE TWENTY-  
THREE MINUTES TO  
SCRAM.

LET'S  
SCRAM  
NOW.



THAT VIDEO RECORDER  
WILL NOT REVEAL ANYTHING  
EVER AGAIN. BUT THERE IS  
ANOTHER EYE. ONE THAT  
SEES...ALL.



UP THERE. IT IS  
VERY OLD, BUT IF IT IS  
STILL WATCHING...

...WE MIGHT  
CATCH A GLIMPSE  
OF OUR MURDERER.

TRAILERS  
5 TONS  
PER AXLE

UP  
BARRIER  
K-100



I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE NOT HOLDING THIS AGAINST ME. I'VE HEARD THAT WHEN...SINGLE DIGIT NUMBERS SHOW THEMSELVES... IT USUALLY MEANS--

IT USUALLY MEANS EXCOMMUNICATION.



NOT IN YOUR CASE,  
AS LONG AS YOU REMAIN  
COOPERATIVE. MAY I  
ASK, THIS MEETING YOU  
ARRANGED...

...WHERE WAS  
IT SUPPOSED TO  
TAKE PLACE?



HEY!



A SURE KILL. WHETHER YOU'RE ONE OF US OR NOT, A SLIVER OF WOOD IN THE HEART, AND YOU'RE FINISHED.

HOW MANY EXCOMMUNICATIONS HAVE YOU ATTENDED?

YOU'RE NEW TO OUR MEMBERSHIP.

I WAS HONORED TWO YEARS AGO.

THIS IS MY FIRST. SO, I'M GRATEFUL THAT YOU TRUSTED ME WITH THIS RESPONSIBILITY...

HNNEGH!

HOLY--!

RRAAARR!

B  
A  
M

OUR MEMBERS  
HAVE ALWAYS HAD  
A HARD TIME  
UNDERSTANDING  
THAT ANYONE--

--ANYONE--

-WHO DIES  
THESE DAYS,  
BECOMES A  
FLESH-EATER.

BUT  
YOU AND I,  
SIR--

--AND THIS  
ONE--

--WE ALL  
DIED.

ONCE.

AND WHEN WE DID,  
SOME STRANGE FORCE  
CAME OVER US. WHATEVER THAT  
FORCE IS, WHATEVER IT IS THAT  
INFECTS US, THAT SAME MAGICAL,  
MYSTERIOUS GERM PRESERVES  
US SOMEHOW.

IT'S A  
BLESSING  
AND A CURSE.

CURSE?

1

FOR CENTURIES, A  
SLIVER OF WOOD SEEMED  
TO BE THE ONLY THING  
THAT COULD KILL US. THEN,  
TO OUR DISAPPOINTMENT, WE  
DISCOVERED THAT IT DIDN'T  
NEED TO BE WOOD. ANYTHING  
THAT SEPARATED THE HEART,  
LEFT FROM RIGHT, WOULD  
DESTROY US.

WE'VE ALWAYS  
THOUGHT OF OURSELVES  
AS IMMORTAL. THE  
ULTIMATE DISAPPOINTMENT  
COMES WITH THE  
REALIZATION THAT...

...WE STILL  
HAVE TO FACE  
DEATH.

IN THAT WAY,  
WE MIGHT AS WELL  
BE HUMAN.

77TH STREET.

GEEZ!



RRRRRBBBBBRRRBRRBBBRRBR

SO  
MANY DEAD  
THINGS!



TRWMPERBBCDD  
DANGER.HSG

TRAIN.

SWAT



SSRDANGER.RH

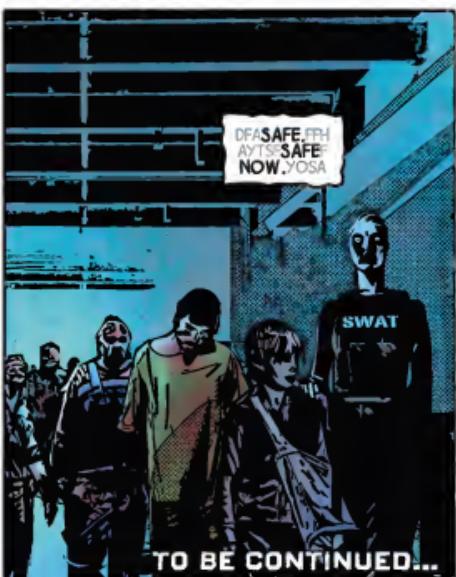
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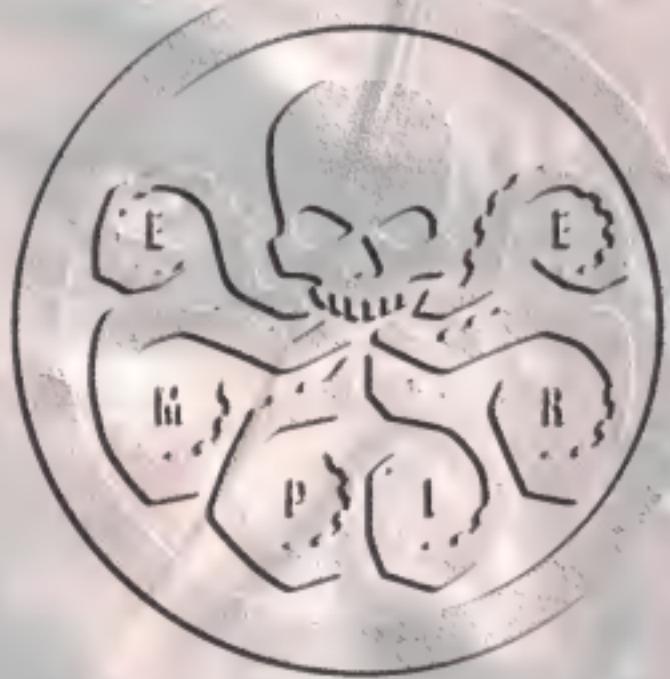


ASFSAF OFF G  
ATDIT THE GH  
BTRACKS.GTS

MICROSSA  
FF HURRY  
GHDEETTA







N / A / L / I

